

honesty. I shall pay no heed whatever to these people, whose attitude I regard as profoundly foolish and profoundly immoral. In other words, their attitude is precisely like that of a man who, having a cancer which can be cured by the use of the knife, nevertheless screams and refuses to submit to an operation because he knows that there will be temporary pain and discomfort.

"You say that there should be 'severe proceedings against' and 'punishment of a few prominent financiers.

You describe exactly the action I have been taking. Do

you suppose that Mr. Rockefeller is giving out interviews

denouncing me because of his altruistic devotion to small

outsiders? Certainly not; he has been attacking me be-

cause he has been hurt; and because he believes that by

working on your fears he can count upon the support of

you and men like you. You protest against my policy of

prosecuting the railroads where evidences of criminal ac-

tion on their part is obtained,' on the ground that, as you

say, I have made no effort to show the * limitations' of my

'intended course.' You might just as well ask a district

attorney to make a statement as to the 'limitations' of his

'intended prosecutions' against liquor sellers who are

guilty of illegal conduct. If people will obey the law they

can count on my doing all I can to further their interests,

but I will no more countenance crimes of greed and cunning

by men of property than crimes of brutality and violence

against property.

"Let me in closing point out that when you advocate, as

you do in your letter to me, a policy of
connivance at or
condonation of law-breaking by men of wealth
on my part,
you advocate precisely the principles which
have made cer-
tain corrupt political organizations in our
cities by-words
among the people, and you put yourself upon
the level of
politicians who have controlled them. How you
can recon-
cile such an attitude with that of teaching
young Americans
respect for law and for proper ideals of
justice, I am
wholly unable to understand. But, this being
your atti-
tude, you are quite right in assailing me; for
during the